

### **Abstract**

The invention relates to a method for the immunocytological determination of apoptotic endothelial cells and/or endothelial precursor cells in samples such as, for example, peripheral blood, by means of, for example, throughflow cytometry or by means of a solid-phase immunoassay, as a diagnostic instrument in patients in whom a cardiovascular disease is either manifest or who carry the risk for the same and as an instrument by means of which the prevention and the therapeutic management of such a disease can be improved.